

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00587 171023Z

16

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 EB-11 TRSE-00 NSC-07 H-03 L-03

PRS-01 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 XMB-07

DRC-01 /091 W

----- 091404

R 170930Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7875

INFO USDOC WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 0587

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP, PFOR, EGEN, BU

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO SOFIA

REF: SOFIA 0569

1. ON ITS WAY TO BUCHAREST FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY UNION MEETING, THE US CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION STOPPED IN SOFIA FOR ABOUT EIGHT HOURS APRIL 15. DURING THE STOPOVER, SIX RANKING MEMBERS LED BY SENATOR SPARKMAN CALLED ON DEPUTY PREMIER POPOV AT THE LATTER'S REQUEST; THE WHOLE DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BONEV; AND ATTENDED A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE AMBASSADOR. WE REGARD THE VISIT AS VERY SUCCESSFUL AND AS A CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA.

2. CALL ON POPOV; IN ADDITION TO SENATOR SPARKMAN SENATORS HUGH SCOTT, ROBERT STAFFORD AND JOSEPH MONTAÑA, AND CONGRESSMEN JOHN JARMAN AND ROBERT MCCLORY ATTENDED THE MEETING WITH POPOV. HIGHLIGHTS WERE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SOFIA 00587 171023Z

A. AFTER OPENING STATEMENT ON THE BULGARIAN ECONOMY

WHICH COVERED FAMILIAR GROUND (REFTEL), POPOV SAID 4.5 MILLION DOLLARS WILL BE INVESTED IN TECHNOLOGY DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS AND HE HOPED THAT US COMPANIES WOULD COLLABORATE IN THIS DEVELOPMENT. "WHETHER THEY DO OR NOT RESTS SOLELY WITH YOU." MFN IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IF THIS COLLABORATION AND TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE TO FLOURISH, POPOV STRESSED. THROUGHOUT THE HOUR LONG MEETING HE TOOK EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS FOR MFN FOR BULGARIA.

B. POPOV ALSO POINTED TO IMPROVING RELATIONS AS EVIDENCED BY THE SIGNING OF A CONSULAR CONVENTION, SECRETARY DENT'S VISIT AND HIS OWN UPCOMING TRIP TO THE US. IN CONNECTION WITH THE LATTER, HE TOLD THE CONGRESSMEN THAT HE WANTED TO SIGN AGREEMENTS WHILE IN THE STATES AND SAID DRAFTS ON SUCH AGREEMENTS ARE BEING WORKED OUT NOW.

C. AFTER GRACIOUSLY EXPRESSING THE NORMAL PLEASANTRIES AND MAKING THE POINT THAT HE PERSONALLY, WAS FOR GRANTING MFN TO BULGARIA, SENATOR SPARKMAN CALLED ON THE OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY TO COMMENT. SENATOR SCOTT RECALLED THE VARIOUS POSITIONS ON THE TRADE BILL INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT'S - THAT HE WILL NOT SIGN THE BILL IF THE JACKSON-VANICK AMENDMENT REMAINS UNCHANGED. SCOTT AND THE OTHERS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE AMENDMENT WILL BE CHANGED, THE TRADE BILL WILL BE PASSED, AND IT WILL PERMIT THE GRANTING OF MFN TO THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING BULGARIA.

D. SENATOR SCOTT RECALLED HIS PRESENCE AT THE PLOVDIV FAIR IN 1973 AND ASKED POPOV IF HE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE US EXHIBITS. POPOV SAID HE WAS GLAD THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN RAISED AS IT GAVE HIM OPPORTUNITY TO NOTE THAT PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV HAS PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE 1973 US EXHIBIT AND ADDED WE HAVE NOT BEEN SATISFIED WITH YOUR EXHIBITS." DCM COMMENTED WE HAD TAKEN PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV'S REMARKS AS CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM AND WILL HAVE A MORE COMMERCIALY ORIENTATED EXHIBIT THIS YEAR WHICH WILL FEATURE AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT. BOTH SCOTT AND POPOV INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH THIS SHIFT IN EMPHASIS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SOFIA 00587 171023Z

3. CALL AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: THE ENTIRE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION CALLED ON THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BULGARIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

VLAFFIMIR BONEV AND A NUMBER OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY. THE CALL INCLUDED SPEECHES BY

BOTH SIDES. BONEV TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OCCASION TO NOTE THE IMPROVEMENT IN US-BULGARIAN RELATIONS AND TO CALL FOR MFN TREATMENT FOR BULGARIA. SENATOR SPARKMAN RESPONDED BY PRAISING THE IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MFN FOR BULGARIA WILL BE FORTHCOMING. THE DELEGATION WAS SHOWN THROUGH THE ASSEMBLY BUILDING.

4. LUNCHEON WAS PLEASANT AND SPEECHES IN KEEPING WITH THE FRIENDLY AND WARM ATMOSPHERE OF THE VISIT, WITH NUMBER OF BULGARIANS ATTENDING WHO ARE NOT OFTEN SEEN TO SUCH EMBASSY-SPONSORED FUNCTION.

5. TV AND RADIO CARRIED STORIES ON THE VISIT AS DID THE MORNING PRESS. WE CONSIDER THE MEDIA COVERAGE SIGNIFICANT, PARTICULARLY SINCE CODEL VISIT COINCIDED WITH SECOND PORTION OF DENT VISIT.
HERZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SOFIA00587
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740088-0822
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740436/aaaabgbn.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SOFIA 0569
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO SOFIA
TAGS: OREP, PFOR, EGEN, BU, IPU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005